APPENDIX.

[*Vide* answer to starred question No. 18 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 20th March 1950, at page 487 supra.]

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

[Seasonal conditions of certain Central Southern districts of the Madras State and the measures taken to alleviate distress in them.]

The north-east monsoon has failed for a third year in succession in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem, Ramnad, Mathurai and Tirunelveli. Consequently distress and unemployment among agricultural labourers is noticed in these districts. The Collectors have already apprised the Government of the prevalence of distress in their districts. Weekly progress reports have been prescribed so as to enable the Government to know the actual position of distress.

2. All the drought affected districts have been inspected by the Members of the Board of Revenue and they have submitted to Government reports about the seasonal conditions in the various districts and the relief measures necessary to alleviate distress in them. The Collectors have accordingly accelerated the execution of ordinary departmental expansion works to provide employment to the agricultural labourers. The position in each district is briefly set out below :—

The Board of Revenue has submitted proposals for the grant of remission on a liberal scale in all drought affected areas and they are under active consideration. Pending sanction of remission, the Collectors have postponed the collection of kist in the areas where remission will ultimately be granted.

Chittoor.

No taluk in this district has so far been affected so as to justify the opening of expansion works to provide work to the unemployed agricultural labourers. The Collector has reported that the need for starting works, may probably arise somewhere in April or May 1950. Employment is now reported to be available for the present for the labourers in all the taluks of the district in road works, irrigation works, subsidy well works, etc. Scarcity of fodder and drinking water is not felt in any of the taluks. Proposals for the grant of remission in Kalahasti, Puttur and Tiruttani taluks have been received and are under consideration.

South Arcot.

Taking failure of wet and dry crops together and the general seasonal conditions Tindivanam, Gingee and Villupuram are the

areas worst affected requiring special measures of relief. The Collector has taken steps to extend the ordinary works under the Minor Irrigation, Rural Water-supply and T.R. Schemes. Accordingly 45 major irrigation works, 152 minor irrigation works, 41 district board works, 1 Food production work and 359 Firka development works are now in progress employing 9,342 workers per day. Tindivanam, Villupuram and Gingee taluks have been recognized as distressed areas for purposes of granting subsistence loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. The fodder position is not also satisfactory. The Collector is considering the question of ban on the export of fodder from the district. No proposals have been made so far for import of fodder from districts. Proposals for the grant of remission of dry and wet assessment in the entire district are under examination.

Tanjore.

The areas adversely affected by the failure of the north-east monsoon are (1) twenty-six villages in the rainfed area of the Tanjore taluk, (2) eleven villages in Nagapattinam taluk, (3) thirty-three villages in Vedaranyam sub-taluk of Tiruturaipundi taluk and (4) twenty-four villages in the rainfed area of the Arantangi taluk. Thirteen minor irrigation works and nine well works are under execution in the Arantangi taluk. The Collector has been asked to open expansion works immediately in the season-affected areas in Tanjore taluk and Vedaranyam sub-taluk if unemployment among agricultural labourers prevails there. Grant of remissions in Nagapattinam and Tiruturaipundi taluks has been recommended.

Tiruchirappalli.

There is no question of famine or even prospect of famine anywhere in the district. The grant of both wet and dry remission on the same liberal scale as was sanctioned for fasli 1358 is necessary—dry remission for 14 villages in Udayarpalayam and 18 villages in Musiri taluk and wet remission 409 villages in Udayarpalayam, Perambalur, Musiri, Tiruchirappalli, Kulittalai, Karur, Alangudi, Kolathur and Tirumayam taluks and remission in 251 villages for manavari lands. The Collector has started 15 minor irrigation works in the taluks of Perambalur, Kulittalai, Karur and Tirumayam to provide employment to the agricultural labourers. Udayarpalayam and Musiri taluks are recommended for remission.

Salem.

The entire Uttangarai sub-taluk is affected. In a few villages in the sub-taluk some people have gone to adjoining villages in North Arcot in search of food. The Collector has suspended the collection of kist and loan instalments. To meet the scarcity of drinking water-supply in Uttangarai sub-taluk and Harur taluk, the Collector has arranged for the deepening of the wells by the district board. To relieve unemployment in Uttangarai sub-taluk the construction of a bridge across the Hanumanthirtham river has been undertaken by the district board which would provide employment for nearly 200 to 300 labourers. Five minor irrigation works

have been ordered to be taken up. Disbursement of well subsidy loans is being accelerated. Issue of permits for cutting wood from reserve forests has been arranged for.

Remission of land revenue on the same liberal scale sanctioned for the last year has been recommended for Uttangarai subtaluk.

Mathurai.

Palni, Tirumangalam and Dindigul taluks affected. The Collector has reported that he is preparing a list of minor and major irrigation works in these taluks and some of them will be selected and kept ready for execution in case of need. Proposals for sanctioning remission in Palni, Tirumangalam, Dindigul, Nilakottai and Periyakulam taluks are under consideration.

Ramnad.

Mudukulathur, Sivaganga and Tiruvadanai are the worst affected taluks. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Food Production who visited the district in the end of January sanctioned 11 Food production works. He has stated that remission in wet and dry areas on the scales sanctioned for the last fasli and the grant of similar concessions in the two zamindari areas of Sivaganga and Ramnad are necessary. At present 146 minor irrigation works and 116 Food production works are in progress in the district relieving 9,550 workers per day. The Collector has been asked to examine the necessity to open kitchens in the affected areas in the district and to submit a report to Government. The Collector's report is awaited.

Tirunelveli.

Tenkasi, Nanguneri, Koilpatti and Sankarankoil taluks are the worst affected. In December last some agricultural labourers were reported to have migrated from one village, viz., Vedantam village in Koilpatti taluk. A few people from some villages near Vilathikulam were reported to have gone to the plantations of Travancore side in search of work. To combat the distress 26 minor irrigation works, 18 district board works, 18 Food production works and 24 Firka development works are in progress.

Due to prevalence of severe distress in Melapalayam Municipality, the Collector has started four road works and six tank works and has made arrangements to distribute rice kanji to the poor through relief houses by relaxing rationing rules. It is proposed to sanction gratuitous relief to the weavers in the municipality at the rate of Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3 per weaver family per week.

In Sankarankoil taluk the ryots have desired permission to graze their cattle freely in the reserve forests and also to remove grass. The Collector is taking this matter up with the District Forest Officer. Proposals for the grant of remission in Nanguneri, Koilpatti and Sankarankoil taluks are under consideration.

Nellore.

Area south of Sulurpet in Nellore district and the western portion of the Venkatagiri taluk have been affected. Nearly all the area affected is in the Venkatagiri zamindari. The Estate manager was asked by the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes who visited the district to submit proposals to the Board for the postponement of kist in areas for which remission is likely to be granted ultimately. The Collector has directed the Estate Tahsildars, Naidupet and Venkatagiri to postpone collection of kist in all affected villages for all fields where the yield is four annas and less.

A number of labourers are employed over the Food production works started by the Executive Engineer. The manager, Venkatagiri Estate, has started two big tank works which would provide work for about 70 or 100 men for about two months. Grant of remission in Sulurpet sub-taluk and Venkatagiri taluk has been recommended.

Chingleput.

Crops in portions of Chingleput, Kancheepuram, Saidapet, Madurantakam, Sriperumbudur and Ponneri taluks and Mappedu firka in Tiruvallur taluk have been affected. The Commissioner of Commercial Taxes has reported that there are many areas in the district where distress is being felt and is likely to be acute in about a month. The Collector has taken up on hand 175 major irrigation works, 111 minor irrigation works, 6 Food production works and 1 district board road work which provide employment to 5,561 workers per day.

Remission of land revenue is required on the same liberal scale sanctioned for last year in the district.

North Arcot.

Tiruvannamalai and Wandiwash, Polur and Chengam taluks have fared worse than the rest; Tiruvannamalai and Wandiwash being the worst. The Collector has taken up for execution one major irrigation work, 53 minor irrigation works, 13 Food production works and 138 well works. The total number of persons relieved is 4,903 per day. Proposals for the grant of remission in the entire district is under consideration.

Coimbatore.

The taluks affected most by unfavourable seasonal conditions are Erode, Palladam, Dharapuram and Udamalpet. The Collector has been asked to take up works under the Tank Improvement Scheme and also the works included in the annual standing famine relief programme drawn up for the district. Accordingly, in addition to the Lower Bhavani Project, which is in progress, six road works have been undertaken to provide employment to unemployed agricultural labourers. Drinking water well works have also been undertaken. Special staff has been sanctioned for liaison work and for recruitment and advice for labour. The Collector

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has reported that people are supplied food ration cards and civil supplies works and means of earning wages have been provided. There is no need for kanji thottis at present.

In order to relieve fodder scarcity, the District Forest Officer, under instructions from the Collector, have opened some cattles, pens, where local cattle may come and graze. The Collector has made arrangements with the Tiruppur Co-operative Sales Society, Perundurai stores and other agents to import fodder from Tanjore and Salem districts by rail, and sell them to ryots at cheap rates and has addressed the Railway authorities to provide adequate wagons. The Railway authorities are being addressed to give the highest priority to the special agents selected by the Collector for importing fodder in the matter of allotment of wagons. The question of obtaining concessional facilities for transport of fodder is under consideration. The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies has also been asked to arrange in such a way that local credit and other co-operative societies selected for their stability, storage accommodation, etc., are linked up with the Tiruppur and Perundurai societies in such a way that there will be at least one co-operative society centre for fodder in each firka. The Board of Revenue has also instructed the Collector to make arrangements for the supply of water by Civil Supplies lorries and railways in all cases of real urgent necessity in the taluks of Dharapuram, Palladam, Erode and Udmalpet, as the deepening of drinking water wells may take some time. Grant of remission has been proposed for Erode, Dharapuram and Udamalpet taluks.

The Government are of the opinion that the relief measures so far undertaken are adequate. They are, however, closely watching the situation and any special need for relief which may arise will be promptly attended to. The Collectors and the district boards have adequate schemes on hand which would provide employment to the labourers. It is expected that the situation can be tided over without undue distress.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS